

Colorado-Lavaca Basin and Bay Expert Science Team

May 11, 2010

Action Items and Consensus Decision Points

The CLBBEST met May 11, 2010 at LCRA in Austin. Cathy Wakefield was the only BBEST member unable to attend.

Consensus Decision: Future Meeting Times. Okla Thornton requested future meetings be held earlier in the morning to accommodate departing Austin. The group reached consensus that future meetings will be scheduled from 8:30 – 2:30. Dave Buzan conferred with Cathy Wakefield and she supported the earlier start times.

Consensus Decision: Approval of April 20, 2010 Action Items and Decision Point Memo. The memo was approved by consensus- noting that the list of gages needs to be updated. **Action Item:** Dave Buzan will assure that the Master Gage list is accurate.

Action Item: Budget. Dave Buzan will modify the existing budget to include additional full meetings to handle anticipated interaction with the stakeholder group after the recommendation reports are finalized. Work group meetings will also be incorporated into the budget. Dave will present the revised budget at the next meeting.

Consensus Decision: Bay Expert Meeting at the Coast

The Bay and Estuary sub-committee proposed a meeting with invited bay experts to solicit information about the Matagorda-Lavaca estuary system to aid in determining if East Matagorda, Matagorda, and Lavaca Bay support a sound ecological environment. The BBEST reached consensus approval to host the meeting and utilize the BBEST for up to 4 hrs per Bay and Estuary sub-committee member to participate in the meeting. The Bay and Estuary sub-group will begin to plan the meeting.

Action Item: Field Trip to Matagorda-Lavaca Estuary. In conjunction with the Bay Expert Meeting, Bryan Cook will explore the logistics of a field trip to the Matagorda-Lavaca Estuary. Bryan will propose different options regarding touring East Matagorda, Matagorda, and Lavaca Bays. The tentative proposal is a Friday Meeting and Saturday Field Trip.

Action Item: TxBLEND Salinity Model of East Matagorda Bay. Dave Buzan will contact Ruben Solis at the TWDB about TxBLEND modeling of the East Matagorda Bay system to help identify sources and contributions of freshwater inflow to East Matagorda Bay.

Action Item: Baseflow Separation Input. Baseflow separation values are needed for the seven initial sites. Okla will provide information for the Colorado River at Ballinger, Bryan will provide information for the San Saba, Llano, and Pedernales, and Dave will select the values for the Lavaca River and Garcitas Creek. The CR at Columbus will use the value from the LSWP study.

Consensus Decision: Additional Gages

The group decided to include Onion Creek at Driftwood to the list of gages to evaluate. Wilbarger Creek and the Tres Palacios will be added as tentative sites. The need to evaluate additional sites will be evaluated during the July and October meetings.

Consensus Decisions and Action Item: Hydrologic Methods Decision Points for Preliminary Analysis

- **Baseflow Separation-** use values as discussed and to be provided to Joe Trungale
- **Hydrologic Period of Record-** The entire period of record will be evaluated for the Colorado River at Ballinger, Colorado River at San Saba, Pedernales River, Lavaca River, and Garcitas Creek. Three Periods: Pre-impact, post-impact, and entire period will be evaluated for the Colorado River at Columbus, and the Llano River at Llano.
- **Seasonality-** Dave Buzan will evaluate seasonality at 3 gages and propose alternate seasons if needed. Otherwise, HEFR defaults will be used.
- **Hydrologic/Climatic Condition-** The Hydrology Team will provide a recommended approach for Base Flows (Wet, Average, Dry) condition or use HEFR default percentiles (25th, 50th, 75th percentiles).
- **Subsistence Flows-** Subsistence flows will be set to the Q95 level for the initial analysis.
- **Flow Regime component characteristics-** No action taken
- **Overbank Flows-** US National Weather Service flood stages will be used for initial analysis. These values may be adjusted using daily to instantaneous adjustments

Action Item: Focal Fish List. Recommendation for focal fish should be provided to Dr. Hardy. John Botros and Okla will provide an upper basin focal fish list. Dr. Hardy will visit with Dr. Tim Bonner about fish guilds.

Action Item: Riparian Zones. Melissa Romigh has scheduled a meeting with Kevin Anderson, a riparian expert on the Colorado River. The meeting is set for June 1st at 1 pm. The goal of the meeting is to identify riparian issues, needs, and overbank flow issues. A list of invitees includes: Steve Nelle, Woody Woodrow, Melissa Parker, Tom Hayes, and Norman Johns. If you know of other riparian experts, please provide Melissa with their contact information.

Consensus Decision: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be June 2. Agenda items include discussion on the Geomorphology Overlay by Nolan (TWDB), Water Quality Overlay by David Bradsby or Paul Jensen, and Biology Overlay by David Buzan. The hydrology and riparian group will report progress and a draft freshwater inflow regime will be presented for Matagorda Bay.